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40. (Amended) A control program according to Claim 29, wherein the control software further comprises a control program for retrieving a character string from the received e-mail, and identifying the type of data according to a character string specified based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 3, 2002. Claims 1-8, 10-22, 24-36, and 38-40 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 15, and 29 are in independent form. Claims 9, 23, and 37 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 1-8, 10, 13, 15-22, 24, 29-36, and 38-40 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,489 (Thurlow et al.). Cancellation of Claims 9, 23, and 37 renders their rejections moot. Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 15, and 29, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Thurlow et al. for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to an e-mail processing method that identifies a type of each data included in a received e-mail, which includes a plurality of data, and then determines whether each data included in the received e-mail is to be utilized, in accordance with the identified type of each data.

Thurlow et al. relates to a system for processing electronic messages. Nothing has been found in Thurlow et al. that is believed to teach or suggest an e-mail processing method in which a type of each data included in a received e-mail is identified, wherein the received e-mail includes a plurality of data, and in which it is determined "whether each data included in the received e-mail is to be utilized, in accordance with the identified type of each data," as recited in Claim 1.

That is, the method of Claim 1 determines whether *each data* of a plurality of data included in an e-mail is to be utilized, whereas Thurlow et al. is understood to teach that a determination is made of whether a *whole* e-mail is to be utilized. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Thurlow et al., and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 15 and 29 include a feature similar to that discussed above, in which it is determined whether each data of a plurality of data included in an e-mail is to be utilized. Therefore, Claims 15 and 19 also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

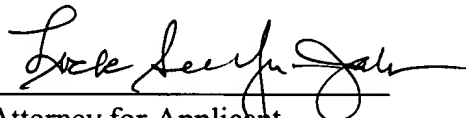
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully

requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An e-mail processing method comprising the steps of:

identifying a type of each data [of] included in a received e-mail, the received e-mail including a plurality of data; and

determining whether [not] each data included in the received e-mail is to be utilized, in accordance with the identified type of each data.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

registering an arbitrary type of data in advance; and

determining that [the e-mail] a data is to be utilized, when the identified type of data coincides with the registered type of data.

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that [the e-mail] a data is to be utilized, the [email] data is preserved as a file.

4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized, the [e-mail] data is not preserved.

5. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized, the [e-mail] data is read and then

abandoned.

6. (Amended) A method according to Claim 5, wherein a presence of [an e-mail] a data to be read and then abandoned is notified for external use.

7. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized, reception of the [e-mail] data is interrupted.

8. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a presence of [an e-mail which] a data that has been determined not to be utilized is notified for external use.

Claim 9 has been canceled.

10. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein, when it has been determined that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized, a subsequent process is selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes.

13. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein [the] identification of the type of data is performed by analyzing the received e-mail.

15. (Amended) An e-mail processing apparatus comprising:

type identification means for identifying a type of each data [of] included in a received e-mail, the received e-mail including a plurality of data; and

determination means for determining whether [not] each data included in the received e-mail is to be utilized, in accordance with the identified type of each data.

16. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising storage

means for storing an arbitrary type of data, wherein said determination means determines that [the e-mail] a data is to be utilized, when the identified type of data coincides with the stored type of data.

17. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising

preservation control means for preserving [the e-mail] a data as a file, when said determination means [has been determined] determines that the [e-mail] data is to be utilized.

18. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein, when said

determination means [has determined] determines that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized, said preservation control means performs control so as not to preserve the [e-mail] data.

19. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising control

means for performing control so as to read and then abandon [the e-mail] a data, when said

determination means [has determined] determines that the [e-mail] data is not to be utilized.

20. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising notification means for notifying, for external use, a presence of [an e-mail] a data to be read and then abandoned.

21. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising communication control means for performing control so as to interrupt reception of [the e-mail] a data when said determination means [has determined] determines that the [e-mail] data is not to be utilized.

22. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising notification means for notifying, for external use, a presence of [an e-mail which] a data that has been determined by said determination means not to be utilized [by said determination means].

Claim 23 has been canceled.

24. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising selection means for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes, when said determination means [has determined] determines that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized.

29. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium[, capable of being read by a computer,] storing control software for implementing an e-mail process, [said] the control software comprising:

a control program for identifying a type of each data [of] included in a received e-mail, the received e-mail including a plurality of data; and

a control program for determining whether not the received e-mail is to be utilized, in accordance with the identified type of each data.

30. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises:

a control program for reading a type of data, which has been registered in advance in a memory; and

a control program for determining that [the e-mail] a data is to be utilized, when the identified type of data coincides with the read type of data.

31. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for preserving [the e-mail] a data as a file, when it has been determined that the [e-mail] data is to be utilized.

32. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for performing control so as not to preserve

[the e-mail] a data, when it has been determined that the [e-mail] data is not to be utilized.

33. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for performing control so as to read and then abandon [the email] a data, when it has been determined that the [e-mail] data is not to be utilized.

34. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 33, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for notifying, for external use, a presence of [the e-mail] a data to be read and then abandoned.

35. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for interrupting reception of [the e-mail] a data, when it has been determined that the [e-mail] data is not to be utilized.

36. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for notifying, for external use, a presence of [the e-mail which] a data that has been determined not to be utilized.

Claim 37 has been canceled.

38. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for causing a subsequent process to be selectable from among a plurality of predetermined processes, when it has been determined that [the e-mail] a data is not to be utilized.

39. (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for identifying the type of data by analyzing the received e-mail.

40. (Amended) A control program according to Claim 29, wherein [said] the control software further comprises a control program for retrieving a character string from the received e-mail, and identifying the type of data according to a character string specified based on a position in the received e-mail where the retrieved character string is present.